

INFORMATION.



A. S. WATSON & COMPANY LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.
MANUFACTURERS OF AERATED
WATERS.OUR AERATED WATER MANUFACTORY
operates with the best machinery, embodying
all the latest improvements in the trade.The greatest attention has been paid
to securing purity in the Water
supply, to secure which we have added a
large supply of pure water with 3,000 gallons
of distilled water a day, and are in a
position to compete in quality with the best
English Water. Our Sweet Waters cannot be
surpassed anywhere.The purest ingredients only are used, and
the utmost care and cleanliness are exercised in
the manufacture throughout.

LARGE BOMBAY "SODAS"

We continue to supply large bottles as
heretofore, free of Extra Charge, to those of
our Customers who prefer to have them to
the ordinary size.

COAST PORT ORDERS

Whenever practicable, are despatched by first
steamer leaving after receipt of order.For Coast Ports, Waters are packed
and placed on board ship at Hongkong prices,
and the full amount allowed for Packages and
Brimmage when received in good order.Counterfoil Order Books supplied on applica-
tion.Our Registered Telegraphic Address is
"DISPENSARY, HONGKONG."And all signed messages addressed thus
will receive prompt attention.The following is a List of Waters always
kept ready in Stock:

PURE AERATED WATER

SODA WATER

LEMONADE

POTASH WATER

SALTZ WATER

SARSAPARILLA WATER

Tonic Water

GINGER ALE

GINGERADE

No Credit given for Bottles, except when
they are returned, and that of containing
Aerated Water, as such Bottles are never used
again by us.A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.
Hongkong, China, and Manila.

BIRTHS

On the 24th December, at No. 2, Richmond Terrace,
Mrs. HENRY HUMPHREYS, of a daughter.At East Point, on the 25th December, Mrs. J. J.
KNEPP, of a daughter.At Mount Kaitai, on Christmas day, the wife of
WILLIAM KENNEDY WELLS, of a son.

MARRIAGES

On the 26th December, at St. Peter's Church,
Hongkong, ANDREW J. LAM, to JESSIE MARIA,
second daughter of ARTHUR SHARP, of Ravenhill,
Belfast.

DEATHS

On the 11th December, at No. 16, Yokohama, Hsien,
late of the Government Civil Hospital, Hongkong, on
the 15th December, THOMAS DE BOWEN,
At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 25th of
December, 1899, THOMAS DE BOWEN, late Chief Pilot
of the steamer "Shanghai," aged 27 years.On the 27th December, at No. 4, Castle Terrace,
Hongkong, K. B. MERRILL, aged 55 years.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JANUARY 1st, 1900.

1899.

To-day we enter not only on a New Year but
on a new decade, and the appearance of
the figures 90 reminds us that the Century
is wearing its close. The year whose knell
has just rung was, it is to be feared, one
mainly of disappointments to sojourners in
the Far East. It opened with a fair promise
politically and commercially; but the bad
of promise never ripened into bloom
and 1899 will certainly not be numbered
with those years which have been rich in
realisation.Events in China have not proved so big
with fate as we expected. The young
Emperor KWANG SU early in the year cele-
brated his nuptials, and soon thereafter took
into his grasp the reins of power, when it
was believed this assumption of the govern-
ment would soon lead to the inauguration
of a progressive policy under which China
would move, soberly but steadily, but
disaster dogged the footsteps of His Im-
perial Majesty. Before any new step had
been actually advertised upon the Temple
of Heaven at Peking was destroyed by fire,
and, whether the fact is attributable to this
cause or not, all action in the direction of
change was forthwith suspended. The
system of railways sanctioned by the Em-
peror just prior to this sinister event, though
never formally cancelled, has apparently
been deferred indefinitely, and no measures
of improvement or reform have since been
attempted. It will be fortunate indeed if
the sequel should prove that there has
been no setting back of the hands of the
clock of progress in the Celestial Empire.The sanguine anticipations raised that at
last the railway—that great pioneer of pro-
gress—was about to be introduced into grave
service into the far-reaching domains of the
Son of Heaven were soon dashed to the
ground. The project of CHANG CHIEH-TUNG,
late Viceroy of the Two Kwang, for a grand
trunk line from Luichow, near Peking, to
Hankow—which his enemies say was de-
liberately suggested with a view to defeat-
ing the scheme of LI HUNG-CHANG for the
extension of the Taku-Tientsin line to Pe-
king—was first sanctioned, then hostilely
criticized, and finally shelved. At the pre-
sent moment nothing appears to be known
positively as to the chances of the iron road
becoming an institution in the Central King-
dom. Meantime dissatisfaction has found ex-
pression in several abortive outbreaks in
different provinces, not serious but not with-
out significance, while mutterings of dis-
content have been far more widely
spread, and may yet bear unpleasant fruit.So far, however, apart of ill-omen and secret
anxiety, the dynasty stands firm, and was
probably never more secure against internal
foes. Infirm of purpose as the Central
Government has shown itself in its dealing
with schemes of reform and progress, it has
exhibited characteristic obstinacy and fixity
of purpose in its dealings with the Treaty
Powers. The feeble diplomacy of the
rockets of the Taung-tai Yamen's passive
resistance; the Ministers have neither been
able to secure new concessions nor to enforce
the rights conferred by the Treaties. Flood
and famine have desolated wide districts,
and several disastrous fires have occurred,
while trade in some important staples hasshown a decline, and heavy losses have been
sustained, both at Hankow and Foochow.To Japan though the year has been event-
ful it has also been somewhat disappoint-
ing. On the 11th February the new consti-
tution, granting representative government,
was promulgated by Imperial Decree with
much ceremony and amid popular rejoicing;
and the country will soon be called upon to
make its first elections for the Assembly. A
shadow, however, cast over the rejoicing
attending the promulgation of the constitution
by the assassination of Viscount Mori,
one of the Ministers. The work of treaty
revision was actively carried on during the
greater part of the year and appeared to be
approaching a satisfactory conclusion, when
a reaction rather suddenly set in, popular
dissatisfaction being loudly expressed at the
terms conceded by Japan, especially with
reference to the appointment of foreign
Judges, and some apprehension seems also
to have been entertained as to the effect on
Japanese interests of throwing the country
open to foreign enterprise and competition.On the 19th October the negotiations were
brought to a standstill by the attempted
assassination of Count OKUMA, the Foreign
Minister, who was seriously wounded, and it
is expected that the matter will now be left
in abeyance for some time. The country
has been afflicted with disasters in the shape
of floods and earthquakes, but on the whole
prosperity has prevailed, and although for-
eign merchants may perhaps not be alto-
gether satisfied with the result of their year's
operations, the Customs returns, when they
come to be published, will, we believe, show
a considerable expansion of the general
trade of the country.The year's record of marine disasters is a
somewhat heavy one. In addition to a large
number of minor casualties we have to note
the loss of several fine steamers well known
in these waters. The Blue Funnel steamer
Prism was wrecked on the coast of Spain
on her outward voyage, with the loss of
several lives. The Glen Line steamer Glen-
gow was sunk by collision off Beachy Head,
and her crew numbering fifty-four were
drowned. The steamer Albatross was
wrecked on an unknown shoal while on the
passage from Iloilo to Singapore, but for-
tunately without loss of life. The Mes-
sageries Maritimes steamer Andary, hom-
eward bound, was sunk by collision with the
same company's steamer Oms in Aden
harbour and became a total wreck. The
most appalling disaster, however, on account
of the great loss of life involved, was the loss
of the German steamer Daburg. This vessel
left Singapore for Hongkong and Amoy on the
25th October, having on board some 250 Chi-
nese passengers. She has not been heard of
since, and a careful search made by another
steamer failed to discover any clue to the
number of her loss. The Spanish steamer
Renu was wrecked in Philippine waters with
a loss of forty-two lives, and a collision be-
tween the steamers Mindanao and Vianay
off the coast of Luzon also involved the
sacrifice of twenty-two lives. Of sailing
ships some half-dozen have been wrecked in
this neighbourhood. In the case of the En-
glish, wrecked near Tamsui, the captain
and crew were drowned, and in the case of
the Japanese, wrecked off the coast of
Formosa, one of the boats with half the crew in
her disappeared while on the way to Hongkong.Within the narrower circle of colonial
affairs, in our small island story, the tale
of events during the year has not been uni-
form. The record of legislation is a
satisfactory one on the whole. The great
Praya reclamation scheme, which will add
so much to the business portion of the City of
Victoria, has been finally decided upon and
the work initiated. Thanks in great mea-
sure to the vigorous manner in which
Governor Sir WILLIAM DUNN backed
up the representations of the Chamber of
Commerce and the Press, the anomaly which
gave a status to foreign mail steamers su-
perior to those carrying the English flag will
shortly be removed, the Ordinance conferring
it having been passed for the last time, for
one year only. The Fire Brigade has been
reorganised, the Volunteers being disband-
ed, and the Government taking the whole
burden of maintaining the service, so far
with satisfactory results, the fire which has
occurred having soon been brought under
control. The institution of fire inquiries
seems also to have had a most beneficial
effect in checking arson, which had become
alarmingly common among the Chinese.
Sanitary measures have received a good deal
of attention during the past year, and much
discussion has been raised over the sanitation
of the Peak district, where the problems
of efficient drainage and water supply have yet
to be solved. The whole question of sani-
tation, however, has still to be threshed out,
and Mr. OSBERT CHADWICK has been sent
out to advise and assist the Government in
the matter. It has been decided to erect a
lighthouse on the Gap Rock to light the
southern approaches to the port, and the first
steps towards the consummation of this most
desirable work have been taken. The Legisla-
tive session was opened in November, and
marked by the publication of a most impor-
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the Governor on the position and prospects
of the Colony, in which His Excellency takes
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one disaster of any moment, in the mem-
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which were attended by serious damage to
public works and considerable loss to many
residents in the Queen's Road. These
phenomenal downpours also scarred the face
of the island by the landslides they caused,
and one of these led to the discovery of a
golden lode, which is hoped will prove a
valuable silver-lode and prove some com-
pensation to the Colony for the destruction
wrought by the storms.During the past twelve months a number
of changes in the higher ranks of the Public
Service have taken place. One of these has
been caused by the untimely death of the
Hon. F. STEWART, LL.D., Colonial Secretary.
Dr. STEWART was one of the most com-
petent officers the Colony has ever had,
a man in whose nature no deviation could
be found on any side from the standard of
thorough uprightness, and whose kindness
of heart endeared him to all with whom he
came in contact. His successor, who has
not yet arrived, is Mr. FRANCIS FLEMING,an experienced officer, with a thoroughly re-
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command of the Troops in Hong-
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The Hon. E. L. O'MALLEY, who has been
appointed to the Chief Justiceship of the
Straits Settlements, is to be succeeded in the
Attorney-Generalship of this Colony by
Mr. W. M. GOODMAN, lately Chief Justice of
British Honduras. In the early part of
the year His Honour Mr. JUSTICE FIELDING
CLARKS, who was appointed Justice Judge
on the promotion of Mr. JUSTICE RUSSELL
to the Chief Justiceship, arrived in the
Colony, and on Mr. RUSSELL's departure
leave—shortly afterwards, was appointed
Acting Chief Justice. Mr. RUSSELL, soon
after his arrival in England, received the
well-merited honour of knighthood. The
Hon. J. M. PRINCE to whom the Colony is
indebted for the Tyan Water works, the
Bowen Road, and numerous public im-
provements both in respect of utility and
adornment—has been succeeded as head of
the Public Works Department by the Hon.
S. BROWN. In January a change of Resi-
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tonshire being succeeded by the Argyle and
Sutherland Highlanders, who are making
themselves equally popular. In the Legisla-
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been succeeded by the Hon. J. J. KENNEDY,
and the Hon. A. P. MACLEOD has resumed
the seat which during his absence was filled
by Mr. B. LARSON. Amongst other changes
we have to regret the departure of Major
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Volunteer Artillery Corps and Clerk of the
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of respect to those who have been stricken
down by death. Amongst these was Adm-
IRAL CHAMBERLAIN, of the United States Navy,
who died suddenly in this Colony in February
last. The sympathy felt with the Great Re-
public in the loss of an distinguished an
officer was shown by the large attendance at
the funeral. The Colony has also to regret
the death of Mr. W. H. F. DANN, a partner
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the money market and over-speculation have
caused a temporary depreciation of local
stocks, and produced, on paper at all events,
an unpleasant shrinkage in values. But the
darkest hour, which proverbially precedes
the dawn, has surely passed, and a fresh
lease of prosperity will be rung in with the
new period of time on which we have entered.
Such at least is our earnest hope and
belief, while we, once more, wish all our
readers aHAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW
YEAR.To-day being New Year's Day, there will be
no issue of the Hongkong Daily Press to-mor-
row.The Hongkong Trading Company, Limited,
has been floated, but as there are still some
shares unallotted, application will be received
until the end of this month.We hear that negotiations are in progress
with the idea of arranging a gun competition
with 64-pieces between the Hongkong
Changha, and Singapore Volunteers.Philatelists rejoice. The Shanghai Local
Post Office will issue new stamps on and after
to-day, the 1st January. The issue consists of
five stamps—24, 10, 10, and 2 cents.The Agents (Messrs. Butterfield and Swire)
inform us that the U. S. S. Co's steamer
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Sanitary measures have received a good deal
of attention during the past year, and much
discussion has been raised over the sanitation
of the Peak district, where the problems
of efficient drainage and water supply have yet
to be solved. The whole question of sani-
tation, however, has still to be threshed out,
and Mr. OSBERT CHADWICK has been sent
out to advise and assist the Government in
the matter. It has been decided to erect a
lighthouse on the Gap Rock to light the
southern approaches to the port, and the first
steps towards the consummation of this most
desirable work have been taken. The Legisla-
tive session was opened in November, and
marked by the publication of a most impor-
tant, lucid, and comprehensive despatch by
the Governor on the position and prospects
of the Colony, in which His Excellency takes
a rose-coloured view of the future of Hong-
kong. The year has been marked by only
one disaster of any moment, in the mem-
orable rain storms of the 29th-30th May,
which were attended by serious damage to
public works and considerable loss to many
residents in the Queen's Road. These
phenomenal downpours also scarred the face
of the island by the landslides they caused,
and one of these led to the discovery of a
golden lode, which is hoped will prove a
valuable silver-lode and prove some com-
pensation to the Colony for the destruction
wrought by the storms.During the past twelve months a number
of changes in the higher ranks of the Public
Service have taken place. One of these has
been caused by the untimely death of the
Hon. F. STEWART, LL.D., Colonial Secretary.
Dr. STEWART was one of the most com-
petent officers the Colony has ever had,
a man in whose nature no deviation could
be found on any side from the standard of
thorough uprightness, and whose kindness
of heart endeared him to all with whom he
came in contact. His successor, who has
not yet arrived, is Mr. FRANCIS FLEMING,an experienced officer, with a thoroughly re-
solute native interest in the Colony. Gen-
eral CAMPBELL has been succeeded in the
command of the Troops in Hong-
kong and China by General BRYAN EDWARDS.
The Hon. E. L. O'MALLEY, who has been
appointed to the Chief Justiceship of the
Straits Settlements, is to be succeeded in the
Attorney-Generalship of this Colony by
Mr. W. M. GOODMAN, lately Chief Justice of
British Honduras. In the early part of
the year His Honour Mr. JUSTICE FIELDING
CLARKS, who was appointed Justice Judge
on the promotion of Mr. JUSTICE RUSSELL
to the Chief Justiceship, arrived in the
Colony, and on Mr. RUSSELL's departure
leave—shortly afterwards, was appointed
Acting Chief Justice. Mr. RUSSELL, soon
after his arrival in England, received the
well-merited honour of knighthood. The
Hon. J. M. PRINCE to whom the Colony is
indebted for the Tyan Water works, the
Bowen Road, and numerous public im-
provements both in respect of utility and
adornment—has been succeeded as head of
the Public Works Department by the Hon.
S. BROWN. In January a change of Resi-
dents took place, the popular Northamp-
tonshire being succeeded by the Argyle and
Sutherland Highlanders, who are making
themselves equally popular. In the Legisla-
tive Council the Hon. J. BALL-ANTON has
been succeeded by the Hon. J. J. KENNEDY,
and the Hon. A. P. MACLEOD has resumed
the seat which during his absence was filled
by Mr. B. LARSON. Amongst other changes
we have to regret the departure of Major
TAMM, the genial Commandant of the
Volunteer Artillery Corps and Clerk of the
Council at our annual race meeting, who was
compelled by the state of his health to
transfer his residence to Shanghai. While
speaking of the changes in our public
and social circles we must also pay a tribute
of respect to those who have been stricken
down by death. Amongst these was Adm-
IRAL CHAMBERLAIN, of the United States Navy,
who died suddenly in this Colony in February
last. The Colony has also to regret
the death of Mr. W. H. F. DANN, a partner
in the firm of GIBBS, LIVINGSTON & CO., who
was widely known and respected, and had
always taken a keen interest in our sports
and recreations. Mr. DANN had for some
years held the post of President of the
Cricket Club. Within the last few days, too,
news has been received of the death of Mr.
MACDONALD, another well known resident,
whose presence will be sadly missed at fu-
ture gatherings of the St. Andrew's Society.Within the past three months a cloud—
passing cloud, we trust—has passed away
the sun of our prosperity. The tightness of
the money market and over-speculation have
caused a temporary depreciation of local
stocks, and produced, on paper at all events,
an unpleasant shrinkage in values. But the
darkest hour, which proverbially precedes
the dawn, has surely passed, and a fresh
lease of prosperity will be rung in with the
new period of time on which we have entered.
Such at least is our earnest hope and
belief, while we, once more, wish all our
readers aHAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW
YEAR.To-day being New Year's Day, there will be
no issue of the Hongkong Daily Press to-mor-
row.The Hongkong Trading Company, Limited,
has been floated, but as there are still some
shares unallotted, application will be received
until the end of this month.We hear that negotiations are in progress
with the idea of arranging a gun competition
with 64-pieces between the Hongkong
Changha, and Singapore Volunteers.Philatelists rejoice. The Shanghai Local
Post Office will issue new stamps on and after
to-day, the 1st January. The issue consists of
five stamps—24, 10, 10, and 2 cents.The Agents (Messrs. Butterfield and Swire)
inform us that the U. S. S. Co's steamer
Daburg, from Liverpool, left Singapore for
one year only. The Fire Brigade has been
reorganised, the Volunteers being disband-
ed, and the Government taking the whole
burden of maintaining the service, so far
with satisfactory results, the fire which has
occurred having soon been brought under
control. The institution of fire inquiries
seems also to have had a most beneficial
effect in checking arson, which had become
alarmingly common among the Chinese.
Sanitary measures have received a good deal
of attention during the past year, and much
discussion has been raised over the sanitation
of the Peak district, where the problems
of efficient drainage and water supply have yet
to be solved. The whole question of sani-
tation, however, has still to be threshed out,
and Mr. OSBERT CHAD

MAILS EXPECTED.

MAILS EXPECTED.

THE AMERICAN MAIL.

The P. M. steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, with the American mail of the 3rd December, left Yokohama on the 27th idem; and is due here on or about the 2nd January.

THE FRENCH MAIL.

The M. M. steamer *Calédonien*, with the next French mail, left Saigon on the morning of the 30th December, and is due here on the 2nd January.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Indo-China steamer *Wingsang*, with mail from Calcutta, left Singapore at 3 p.m. on the

9th December, and may be expected here on or about the 5th January.

THE CANADIAN MAIL.

The C. P. steamer *Abyssinian*, with Canadian mails, left Vancouver on the 14th December, and is due here on or about the 10th January.

STEAMERS EXPECTED.

The China Mutual steamer *Orin* left Singapore on the morning of the 20th December, and is due here on or about the 1st January.

Singapore at 3 p.m. on the 26th December, and
 leaving the morning of the 2nd January.

The D. D. E. steamer *Prigla* left Singapore at 4 p.m. on the 26th December, and is due here on or about the 2nd January.

The Austro-Hungarian steamer *Melpomene* left Singapore on the morning of the 29th December, and is due here on or about the 5th January.

The O. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Dioned*, from Liverpool, left Singapore on the 31st December, and is due here on the 7th inst.

POST-OFFICE NOTICES.

The Post Office will be closed from 11.30 a.m. on the 1st January (New Year's Day). The Night Box will be kept open. The Stamp Office will be entirely closed.

2. The authorised List of Mails issued in connection with this paper is the one published twice each day in our Extra, which is always corrected to a much later hour than that given below.

A MAIL WILL CLOSE.

For Canton.—Per *Pattim*, to-day, the 1st inst., at 11.30 A.M.

For Macao.—Per *Kuikang*, to-day, the 1st

For Bangkok.—Per P. C. C. Kiao, to-morrow,

The 2nd inst. at 11.50 a.m.—Per Don Juan, to-
 morrow, the 2nd inst. at 3.30 p.m.
 For Nagasaki, Kobe, and Yokohama.—Per
 Amcona, to-morrow, the 2nd inst. at 5.00 p.m.
 For San Francisco, Colombo, and Bombay.—Per
 Nisum, to-morrow, the 2nd inst. at 11.30 a.m.
 For Yokohama.—Per Borinda, on
 Monday, the 2nd inst. at 11.30 a.m.
 For Yokohama, Kobe, and Yokohama, and Van-
 couver.—Per Nisum, on Thursday, the
 2nd inst. at 11.30 a.m.
 For Yokohama and San Francisco.—Per
 City of Rio, on Thursday, the 2nd inst. at

NOTES OF CLOSING THE ENGLISH

HOURS OF BUSINESS AND FRENCH MAILS.
When the Packets leave at Noon.
The following hours will be observed in closing the mails for Europe, &c., by the English and French Packets, when they leave at Noon. The Money Order Office will be closed at 5 P.M. the day before.
8.00 A.M.—Posting of Prices Current and Circulars ceases.
(Prices Current and Circulars may however be posted up to 10 o'clock if they are tied in bundles by country, with the addresses all one way.)
10.00 A.M.—Registry ceases.
11.00 A.M.—Closing of newspapers books and

11.00 A. M.—Mail closes.

LATE LETTERS may be posted (10.00 AM) with 10 cents late fee up to 11.00 A.M. after which hour they may be sent on board with the same late fee.

CUTLER, PALMER & Co.
ESTABLISHED IN LONDON, 1815
Are represented in China by
Messrs. SIEMSEN & Co.
" LANE, CRAWFORD & Co. by
" H. E. REYNELL & Co. in Japan.....
Subjoined are some of the items consigned by
these well-known Shippers.

COGNAC—Their popular "4 Star" quality and

best.—No better shipped.
COGNAC.—Their well-known "2 Star" quality
SCOTCH WHISKY.
See Separate Advertisement.
IRISH WHISKY.
THE BEST.—Only one quality consigned.
PORT.—"INVALIDS."
Invalids in particular are recommended to select
this Wine. See special Advertisement.

For Connoisseurs the following Wines have their own distinctive merits—

The "INVALIDS," pale, delicate fine flavor.
"ANOSBO," a Stouter Wine, very popular.
"MANZANILLA," a clean dry appetizing Wine.
"SHERBEE—WHITE SEAL," a special favorite in
China, very delicate and soft.

CLARET.

Perfectly pure Bordeaux, not loaded to please
vitiated palates.

MOULTON in quarts and pints.
LANOSE in quarts and pints.
ST. ESTEVE in quarts and pints.
..... in quarts and pints.

LIQUEUR.

BERNECINE from the distillery.
C. P. & Co. are the Sole Consignors of this
world wide known Liqueur..
For Prices apply to either of the above Firms
marked * 151

NOTICE.

**HONG-KONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK
COMPANY, LIMITED.**

SHIPMASTERS AND ENGINEERS are
respectfully informed that, if upon their
arrival in this Harbour, none of the Company's

sent to the HEAD OFFICE, No. 14, Praya
Special will receive prompt attention

Central will receive prompt attention.
In the event of complaints being found necessary, communication with the Undersecretary is requested, when immediate steps will be taken to rectify the cause of dissatisfaction.
D. GILLIES,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 26th August, 1885.

It is shipped in Round, Square, and Hexagonal.

Our Agents have Stocks of either
Please apply to SIEMSEN & Co.,
or to LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.
Hongkong, 21st January, 1884.

**THE CHINA & JAPAN TELEPHONE
COMPANY, LIMITED.**

18, PRATA CENTRAL, HONGKONG.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE is now
in working order.
Subscription, \$30 per Annum.
Electrical Material on sale or hire.

Agents for **ELECTRIC LIGHTING.**
Estimates free for all kinds of Electrical work

SANDFORD.
Agent.
Hongkong, 1st December, 1882. 1623

\$5,000 to be LENT at Current rate
of Interest. Security—First
Mortgage on Landed Property in Hongkong.
Address. C. W.
Care of Daily Press Office.
Hongkong, 24th October, 1889. 1450

THE TONQUIN ROUTE AND THE
TRADE OF CANTON.

INTRAVAL-HUARE, the French Consul at Canton, in a recent report on the trade of that city, takes a somewhat pessimistic view of the future of the port. He says that in the early days of foreign trade with China, Canton was the only port at which it could be carried on. Then came the treaty of 1842, and the opening of other ports for trade besides Canton. This, says he, has been the cause of the decline of the port; it ceased to be, as it had been, the centre of distribution for many districts. The establishment of a consular presence at the same time seriously affected its position. The commercial situation of the port is not promising. He says that in 1886 no trade with China, which in 1884 France will also be very advantageous to our country, as it will create other centres of distribution. Not only this, but the opening of the Canton River, which is only a few miles from the mouth of the Canton River, into Canton will be a serious blow to the port.

is this view supported, either by the history of Canton itself or that of other great cities? After Hongkong was acquired, the bulk of the foreign houses gradually transferred their chief establishments to this colony and started branches in the other open ports. This, of course, makes it difficult to say that Canton has necessarily any permanent domination in the actual volume of trade passing through Canton. Inquiry would show, we think, that the population and wealth of the city have increased during the last forty-five years, notwithstanding the transfer of the foreign establishments. But whatever may have been the effect of the founding of this colony, we think it probable that the opening of the province being likely to adversely affect Canton, the city would gain most enormously. We find in the history of other countries that when any great city improves its communication with its surrounding country, either by the opening of a new railway, the cutting of a canal, or the making of roads, the trade of the city itself as well as of its dependencies is increased. We think, therefore, that the opening of Canton, to suppose that the opening of the West River should prejudice instead of benefiting the provincial capital seems to us inconceivable. It would be as reasonable to say that the trade of Shanghai has been prejudicially affected by the opening of the Yangtze ports, which we know is directly contrary to the actual facts. When Canton takes the place which English foreign trade has hitherto held, it is no longer the provincial capital, it is no longer the

is this view supported, either by the history of Canton itself or that of other great cities? After Hongkong was acquired, the bulk of the foreign houses gradually transferred their chief establishment to the colony and started branches in the other open ports. The bulk of the foreign trade, however, remained in Canton, but necessarily with a permanent diminution in the actual volume of trade passing through Canton. The population could show no think that the population and wealth of the city have increased during the last forty-five years, notwithstanding the transfer of the foreign establishments to the colony. But whatever may have been the effect of the founding of this colony, we can see that the opening up of the interior of the province being likely to adversely affect Canton, the city would gain most enormously. We find in the history of other countries that when any great step is taken to improve its communication with the surrounding country, either by the opening of a new railway, the cutting of a canal, or the making of roads, the trade of the country increases. It is not possible that the trade of Shanghai has not increased. It will necessarily be the same in Canton. To suppose that the opening of the West River should prejudice instead of benefiting the provincial capital seems to me inconceivable. It would be as reasonable to say that the trade of Shanghai has been prejudiced by the effect of the opening of the Yangtze ports, which we know is directly the reverse of the actual fact. We can see that the only place that foreign trade has been supposed to be prejudiced the city occupied a preponderant position; as it is no longer the sole entrepôt of the Empire it may be said that it is importance from that point of view has been diminished, but the natural growth of the legitimate trade has made up for this, and at all events at least to a very great extent, and as to the future, it is safe to say that the city will be able to retain the chief entrepôt for its own province.

THE POSTAGE RATES FROM ENGLAND TO THE FAR EAST.

MR. J. HENRIERE HEATON, M.P., in the letter addressed by him to the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, makes out a strong case for the reduction of postal rates between England and the East. The Chamber appears to have been written in a hurry and not revised, judging from some other of Mr. HEATON'S passages, but the general argument is strong. He shows that on the packet service alone there is a surplus which would enable the Postmaster-General of England to reduce the postage to the Continent and to send letters to India, China, and Japan at a rate not much more than that of the newspapers enormously increased business and improved social relations is inconceivable. We are, however, at a loss to know what Mr. HEATON means when he says:—"Who was suggested that speed and regularity was required, I replied the true way to assure time and obtain speed was to subsidise the telegraph, and I would, for the sum now paid for mail services, undertake to telegraph the contents of all the letters sent by mail would require a good many cables and the expense of maintenance and working would be far in excess of the sum now paid for the conveyance of the letters by steamer. Mr. HEATON also somewhere overstates, possibly, the increase in correspondence in consequence of cheap postage. He says:—"Something has been said in the past that the telegraph is the best mode of communication."

An unworsted spectacle in Hongkong is the one time honoured Chinese Pantheism, but though novel, its popularity here is great and swift. It was detected on Boxing night, the 28th Decr. 1890, when the curtain at the Theatre Royal rose, and the first scene was a flood of light. The audience was a thoroughly representative one, every section of the community, from His Excellency the Governor downwards, being present. The play was a matter of fact, it passed it has been well known that preparations on a large scale were being made by the Amateur Dramatic Club to give a pantomime that should do credit to the Club and the country. And the rumor went round, that the play would have run from time to time circulated some tales, raised the expectations of those assembled to a rather high pitch. Luckily, in the first act, the plot was so simple, that the result of truth and expectations have not been disappointed. The pantomime of "Ali Baba and Forty Thieves" is undoubtedly a success, and might almost be said on an unqualified basis, that the club is doing better than the result of their labours of the past few months. We do venture to say that there are few Amateur D

natic Clubs, certainly anywhere outside London, that could have excelled, as a whole, the standard which the Hongkong Armateurs have

[illegible][illegible]

Wood's abilities are decidedly best adapted to the pantomimic or burlesque line and in *Ali Baba* has a part which fits him in every way. When

The Homecoming Volunteer Artillery Battalion, organized at Kewlown on the 20th of December, and the Corps are again to be congratulated on very satisfactory accounts they gave of themselves. Good as the work was that was done last year, it is a pity that the Corps did not have an onjektor must have been done strictly only with the work done but with the solid and business-like manner in which each of the members of the Corps has been increasing its strength numerically, while believing the books show a larger number of members than the Corps has at present. In history of the Corps. To obtain such results and means a considerable amount of hard work and Captain McCallum and the office need deserve every praise for the high standard efficiency they have attained.

The battery of four guns led Murray Van at about 10:30 a.m. under command of Captain McCallum. The four officers present firing duty were: Captain McCallum, Lieut. Holmes, Lieut. Denison, and Surgeon Can. On arriving at the Kewlown Wharf the battery proceeded to take up the first position at the end of the wharf. The battery was attached between the wooden kiosk situated between Association and Military targets. The enemy was represented by a number of targets. The targets were placed in the following order: smaller ones, head and shoulder targets, represented the men. The Volunteers were assisted by a number of the members from the Garrison Artillery. The battery was ordered to open fire with the view of silencing four guns of the enemy on the extreme right. Some really excellent work was done by the battery. The targets probed. Three out of the four guns the enemy were put out of action at this range. 1250 yards, the targets represented them. The battery was ordered to open fire. The battery, the infantry, under cover of their fire.

ent of Police, Mr. DAVIS, has a small part with a long name to it. He follows a little too closely Hamlet's advice to the players.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Blair	10	13	—	—	—
Davidson	10	12	—	—	—
Second Innings.					
Lowson	115	36	10	4	—

Campe	55	27	8	2	—
E. W. Matland	55	34	2	4	—
<p>First Division.</p> <p>A. J. Campbell, J. M., E. J. G. Jones, 1st c and B. Water...</p> <p>W. M. Blair, R. E. & Smith, 11 2nd B. Coxon...</p> <p>T. Marshall, J. & S. Coxon, B. E. Coxon, 2nd B. Coxon...</p> <p>C. Campbell, M. West, G. E. Coxon, 3rd B. Coxon...</p> <p>G. E. Coxon, B. E. Coxon, 4th B. Coxon...</p> <p>Water, 5th B. E. Coxon...</p> <p>O. Stewart, B. Water, 6th B. E. Coxon...</p> <p>R. H. Gough-Nichol, B. E. E. Jones, 7th B. E. Coxon...</p> <p>Local Kirk, B. E. G. S. 8th B. E. Coxon...</p> <p>Local Kirk, B. E. G. S. 9th B. E. Coxon...</p> <p>R. W. Matland, B. E. G. S. 10th B. E. Coxon...</p> <p>Coxon, 11th B. E. Coxon...</p>					
<p>Second Division.</p> <p>1st c and B. Water...</p> <p>2nd B. Coxon...</p> <p>3rd B. Coxon...</p> <p>4th B. Coxon...</p> <p>5th B. E. Coxon...</p> <p>6th B. E. Coxon...</p> <p>7th B. E. Coxon...</p> <p>8th B. E. Coxon...</p> <p>9th B. E. Coxon...</p> <p>10th B. E. Coxon...</p> <p>11th B. E. Coxon...</p>					

1-8
BOWLING ANALYSIS

	First Innings.				
	Balls.	Runs.	Mds.	Wkts.	Wides.
N. Smith	50	12	6	—	—
T. J. Cozart	120	45	11	4	—
E. Hutchinson	25	23	—	—	—
F. W. Walter	37	47	7	0	—
	Second Innings.				
	Balls.	Runs.	Mds.	Wkts.	Wides.
E. J. Cozart	52	6	4	—	—
F. W. Walter	62	23	8	6	—

A letter was read from the Acting Co-
Secretary signifying the approval of His

and Mr. H. McCallan, Secretary.

A letter was read from the Acting Colonial Secretary signifying the approval of His Excellency the Governor for the expenditure of £100 recommended in a report sent up by the Board on the cultivation of vaccine lymph.

A letter from the Acting Colonial Secretary also read, stating that the Boston draft of the Bill for slaughter-house and the Dairy and Farm had been adopted by the Government Council.

A report by the Secretary on the high rate of mortality was presented and was ordered to be printed.

The mortality statistics for the weeks 7th, 14th, and 21st December were laid on the table. The last had not been circulated, so that the figures were not complete.

THE PRESIDENT asked what the effect last return was as regards the death rate of Kowloon.

THE SECRETARY said that rate at Kowloon was a little higher than the previous week, but so high as before.

A letter was read from the Acting Registrar-General forwarding a copy of a memorandum from the Registrar-General to the Surgeon-General and Physicians and stating that from the last return the mortality returns would be based on accordance therewith.

On the motion of the ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL, the Vice-President moved that the final report of the Committee consist of control specifications was adopted.

THE PRESIDENT said the next business was to consider the report of the committee consisting of the Vice-President.

THE ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL said he was afraid the report was not ready. Yet, I thought it would be ready, but another day would be required. He said that his committee would like a little further the discussion.

The matter was ordered to stand over until the committee was ready.

THE PRESIDENT then gave notice that at the next meeting he would propose the motion of the by-laws drawn up by the committee appointed at the last meeting with reference to the bye-laws.

THE PRESIDENT adjourned.

THE HIGH DEATH RATE

THE HIGH DEATH RATE AT KOWLOON

At the meeting of the Sanitary Board on Friday afternoon, the December 1st, the report was presented by Mr. McCallum, the Sanitary Surgeon, on the high death rate at Kowloon. The report was made in some extent, previous one in which the number of deaths in the district this year and previous years set out. Mr. McCallum attaches a representation of the district he made in and says—

"It will be observed that however the sanitary districts are divided, the dwellings of the residents therein, they cannot be on the direct cause of the sudden increase in mortality, as the houses are crowded. The only obvious and general changes of conditions under which the people in this district, which occurred in November, were the increase of mortality was a great increase owing to meteorological influences. This

[illegible][illegible]

"Before offering new building lots, it is most desirable that the roads should be out and graded, and the drains constructed. This much trouble will be saved. For, in the east of the town the level of certain building lots is so low, that if houses are according to the existing level in them, there will be considerable difficulty in draining them."

Although whole streets of new houses lately been constructed in these villages for some reason or other the foregoing recommendation has only been partly acted upon, and it has been neglected the result has been

[illegible]

as far as the directors are concerned and as far as wires can get a contract has been made. What may hereafter happen none of us can say. Whether the arrangement was signed by Mr. Bocher immediately, between him as representing us and the syndicate as representing the intending purchasers, we do not know. We have no contract—I mean to say we have no letters of writing us to have got that agreement, and until we get that I think as good a contract as could possibly be made.

Mr. McCULLOUGH—There is one question I should like to ask Mr. Chair. I have heard that the contract in London was only to be carried out provided that the people in London floated a company.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I believe every one of you has seen the telegrams that have come, and you will observe that, no such statement is made. We only give you what we have got. Every telegram from him has been posted up and the

Mr. FRASER SMITH—It is important with reference to this matter upon which Mr. Chater has so kindly given us information to remember that it is distinctly stated in this report that the directors have been successful in arranging a contract.

THE CHAIRMAN—Does it say that?

Mr. FRASER SMITH—Well, it says "in arranging for the disposal of a portion of our property in connection with the works which were originally

THE CHAIRMAN:—We don't spy to whom.

MR. FRASER SMITH:—I don't want to quibble with you Mr. Chairman. I was bringing this forward for this reason:—You have just now before you a proposal for the adoption of your report and statement of accounts. In the report it is distinctly stated that we have sold there is no use getting away from

it by saying you have arranged to dispose of a portion of our property. Mr. Chater has just explained that we must take this statement with a little grain of salt. Now you see where we would stultify ourselves if we passed this report in its present form. I am far from throwing up my hands in despair, but I have no doubt on the *bona fides* of the directors, and although I don't think Mr. Becker is of much account—I say so frankly—I am no reason to doubt the *bona fides* of his telegram. Still, I think it is incumbent on the directors to make a statement to the shareholders that they have no objection to the proposed sale of the property.

It is only open to suit your account. In this report which states that this contract has been carried out. If you have got Mr. Becker's latest telegram it might help us towards the elucidation of this difficulty.

THE CHAIRMAN.—The telegram says—and it is an expression that may help as to the actual purchase—“Sound at once legally certified translation of concession. Purchaser stipulates.”

MR. FRANK SMITH.—That is very clear.

MR. FRANK.—I think it is a slur has been

most on the directors for not working. The company in the way a mining company should be worked, and I think that is likely to create a totally wrong impression among shareholders. With such a small capital as we have it was impossible to work so large. It would take a million pounds to work this vein of it ourselves and I think therefore the directors are perfectly justified in going on in the way they are at present disposing of por-

Mr. FRANK SMITH: I did not cast any slur, on the directors of this company and I did not choose to make any reply to the objection of the shareholder who has just got down.

The CHAIRMAN:—Was understood. But we like to have the opinion of all.

The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was then put and carried.

Miss DUNN, SECRETARY: There has been a great

MR. FRANK SMITH: There has been a great deal of talk with regard to the manner in which information received by the directors has been circulated. It appears that the custom has been to hang a board up outside the office. I think it is to that altogether insufficient. I think if you would go to a small expense and send an expert around to each shareholder it would be better (hear hear). It could be done, or about a dollar. Besides it would do away with a great deal of the small talk that is indulged in by a certain lot

class of persons who congregate in the Queen's road. (Laughter.) I would respectfully suggest I do not make a proposition of it, that in future instead of having a board outside the office that a circular should be sent to shareholders."

THE CHAIRMAN.—We shall be perfectly happy to act on any suggestion, but there are 500 shareholders and they are constantly changing.

MR. FRANK SMITH.—It could be done very cheaply. I could do it.

The CHAIRMAN—Did you say for a dollar?
 Mr. FRASER SMITH—For very little more.
 Mr. BRANDT—The only objection would be that the newspapers would get the first information. (Laughter.)
 Mr. FRASER SMITH—There are some thick-headed people who do not know what they are talking about. (Renewed laughter.)
 The CHAIRMAN—Well, we will see what can be done.
 A standing ovation greeted the resolution of Mr.

On the motion of Mr. FRANK SMITH, seconded by Mr. SOARES, Messrs. G. S. Coxon and Henderson were elected auditors.

This concluded the business of the public meeting, a private meeting being held afterwards.

SUPREME COURT.
 — 27th December. —
 IN SENIARY JURISDICTION.
 BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE, ACTING PRINCE
 JUDGE.

H. & J. SAMPSON & BRANDT.

This was a claim for \$ 50 for brokers' on 300 Singar shares.

Mr. Caldwell was for the plaintiffs.

Hector Sampson, share-broker, said he had had a number of transactions with the defendant. In August he sold 300 shares to Ho Tim for October. The defendant sent him a cheque for \$12 50 on account of one transaction but he re-

turned it and sent him a letter requesting him to send the full amount.

Cross-examined the witness said they had some question with the defendant over the August settlements. As far as he could remember they agreed to let the question as to brokerage being charged on shares that were not taken up stand over until the case of *Samuel v. Brant* had been decided. They never stated to defendant that they were not entitled to

brokerage unless the shares were taken up. He was not aware that respectable brokers did not charge brokerage on shares that were not taken up. His brother told him of all transactions carried out by him. He never mentioned to witnesses any agreement he had made with the defendants to the effect that brokerage would not be charged if the shares were not taken up.

Oscar Brandt, commission agent, said there was a special agreement between himself and

James Sampson, by whom no charge was to be made him for brokerage unless the contracts were carried out. He had sent H. Sampson \$12.50 a proportion of 150, on contracts which had been carried out. If the rest of the contracts were completed he should be willing to pay the plaintiffs the brokerage. He had no written agreement with J. Sampson.

His Lordship pointed out that he had already decided in the case of Ho Tim that defendant was entitled to a brokerage if once the contract was

Mr. Brandt said Mr. J. Sampson had admitted to him that although they were legally entitled to brokerage, they should not expect him to pay it unless the shares were taken up. He had paid the plaintiffs in one case in which he had suffered a heavy loss. If Mr. J. Sampson were of woe in the Colony, he would corroborate this.

100. Defendant to reply: 1. Defendant to set up a special defence as to an agreement be-
tween himself and one of the plaintiffs but no
evidence had been produced in support of it.
2. Defendant should therefore give judgment for the plain-
tiffs with costs.

[Illegible handwritten notes]